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Editorial: Celebrate vinyl revival

Are you old enough to remember when the only way to hear new albums was on vinyl? It's OK if you don't, since we're living through a renaissance of interest in the medium. Some call it a vinyl revival. This, despite the fact there are more ways than ever to obtain music, and many of these methods don't even require anything more than the click of a mouse. In fact, in a music industry wracked by declining sales and an exploded business model, vinyl is growing faster than any other sector of the business.

There is a reason for this: Vinyl has a sound and feel that can't be duplicated by handheld Apple products and MP3s. It's an organic, tactile experience so intoxicating, many find it hard to go back to the soulless feel of digital after experiencing it.

In recognition and encouragement of this sea change, Record Store Day has become an annual event across the country. This Saturday is no exception.

"Record Store Day was conceived in 2007 at a gathering of independent record store owners and employees as a way to celebrate and spread the word about the unique culture surrounding nearly 1,400 independently owned record stores in the US and thousands of similar stores internationally," reads the official website.

Many artists and record companies have produced special, one-off collections for this yearly event. If you visit www.recordstoreday.com, you'll see bands from A-Ha to Rob Zombie have audio jewels waiting in the wings.

If you're in town Saturday, head over to our very own local, downtown record store: American Dream Hi Fi, located at 109 E. Sycamore St. It opens at 8 a.m. and won't close until 9:45 p.m., at which time everyone will head to The Coterie for the after party (with music by DJ Action Jackson) where all the bartender-created cocktails will be music themed. During the day, three bands are scheduled to play: Dormant, an instrumental progressive post-rock band from Fort Wayne; The Pummels, a local rock band; and a local Ramones tribute band. We also have it on good authority that beer and wine will be served at the store all day long.